

nition of characteristics in the former, which appear to him other than Celtic. In noticing two well known crania recovered from the Knoch-maraidhe tumulus in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, he remarks: "In these, especially in one of them, there is a considerable approximation to the Turanian skull;" and again in view of those from British cairns and cists, he repeats his belief that some of them give reason to suspect that they had somewhat of the Mongolian or Turanian form of head.*

It seems, at first sight, an undertaking sufficiently compatible with the results already achieved by craniology, to determine the typical form at least of the modern Celtic cranium; but the results have hitherto been of a very indefinite character. One source of error is doubtless traceable to the neglect of the important fact that a type is an ideal abstraction embracing the mean of many variations, and is not to be determined by the selection of one or two assumed characteristic examples. Opinions, however, have been advanced on the authority of experienced observers, in favour of one or more specific forms as that of the true Celtic head. Referring to the small anterior region characteristic of the skulls in ancient British graves, Dr. Prichard remarks: "In this particular, the ancient inhabitants of Britain appear to have differed very considerably from the present."† Mr. Wilde, on the contrary, after referring to two ancient races, whose remains are found in Irish cairns and sepulchral mounds, the one "globular headed," and the other having skulls "chiefly characterised by their extreme length from before backwards, or what is technically termed their antero-posterior diameter, and the flatness of their sides;" adds: "we find similar conditions of head still existing among the modern inhabitants of this country, particularly beyond the Shannon, towards the west, where the dark, or Firbolg race may still be traced, as distinct from the more globular-headed, light-eyed, fair-haired Celtic people who lie to the north-east of that river."‡ Here the Irish archaeologist describes two essentially distinct ancient skull-forms, and not only recognises the living representatives of both, but finds the diversity of form accompanied by other distinctions in hair, eyes, and complexion.

Nevertheless it has been generally assumed that one well-defined

* *Researches*. vol. iii, p. xx.

† *Ibid* vol i. p. 305.

‡ *Lectures on the Ethnology of the Ancient Irish*.